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THE TOWN OF HAMILTON

Select Board

Monday, February 6, 2023

7:00 pm

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Shawn Farrell, Chair

James Farrell, Vice-Chair

Caroline Beaulieu, Clerk

William Olson

Tom Myers

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Manager Joseph Domelowicz Jr., Tom Myers (via Zoom), David Smith, Dr. Jean Ramsey, Tim Olson, Anna Siedzik (via Zoom)

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR

Mr. Farrell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS

Mr. Farrell gave an overview of the Board and Committee Openings in the Town. They are Historic District Commission (2 openings), Conservation Commission (2 openings), Hamilton Housing Authority, Human Rights Commission, Hamilton Environmental Impact Committee (1 opening), and Hamilton Council on Aging (1 Associate Member Opening).

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jack Davis asked about 5G cell service from the cell tower behind the Town Hall and if there was an update. Town Manager Domelowicz said the service is live but believes the service is LTE right now, not 5G.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- Approve Yukan Run Fast Half Marathon Road Race on May 7, 2023
- Approve appointment of Kathy St. Pierre to the Conservation Commission
- Approve appointment of Lindsey Peabody to the Cultural Council

MOTION 1: Mr. Olson moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Beaulieu seconded. The Select Board allowed the two appointees to introduce themselves before approval. The motion passed (5/0/0).

Before moving to the agenda, Mr. Farrell gave an overview of the elected positions available in the Town and when nomination papers are due. The Annual Town Election will occur on April 6. Additionally, members of the Select Board shared updates on committees and commissions they are serving on.

V. NATIONAL GRID POLE HEARING FOR NEW POLE ON ESSEX ST. AT CHEBACCO ROAD

Michael Kazadi attended to speak on behalf of National Grid regarding moving the pole.

MOTION 2: Ms. Beaulieu moved to approve moving the pole on Essex St. Mr. Olson seconded. The motion passed (5/0/0).

VI. BOARD OF HEALTH CHAIR DAVID SMITH – PROVIDE UPDATE TO SELECT BOARD ON PROPOSAL FOR GREEN BURIALS

Mr. Smith introduced Dr. Jean Ramsey to give an overview of the Green Burial research done and its impacts on Hamilton. She also explained what a Green Burial is. Once finished, she turned the presentation back over to Mr. Smith with the Board of Health.

Mr. Smith gave an overview of the cemetery and how Green Burials would impact the Town and some information on rules and regulations from the State which govern Green Burials. He also noted Green Burials are allowed in Wenham's cemetery. However, there has been minimal demand for them.

Once the presentations were complete, there was discussion among the Board and how to move forward with discovering if Green Burials would even be appropriate in Hamilton's cemetery. Mr. Farrell suggested that the HEIC and Board of Health research costs and the next steps, then come back to the Select Board with a report.

VII. AMENDMENT TO CONSERVATION RESTRICTION ON LAND ON BAY ROAD

Chris LaPointe from Essex County Green Belt was in attendance to give a summary of the request and answer questions from the Select Board as needed. It was noted this would be a permanent restriction.

MOTION 3: Mr. Myers moved to approve the amendment as presented. Mr. Olson seconded. The motion passed (5/0/0).

VIII. PROPOSED WATER RATE ADJUSTMENT – PRESENTATION BY DPW DIRECTOR TIM OLSON

Mr. Domelowicz informed the Select Board since this is the first they are seeing of the proposed water rate adjustments, they should ask DPW Director Olson questions and clarifications tonight, and a vote would take place at a future meeting. Director Olson presented four options for potential rate adjustments and was available for questions from the Select Board.

Town Manager Domelowicz pointed out to the Board that miles of water pipes will need to be replaced, and a rate adjustment would generate a million dollars of revenue to replace those pipes every couple of years. The numbers can be adjusted based on what the Select Board would like, but a rate increase is almost necessary. The Board took no action, but this

topic will appear on a future agenda.

IX. REQUEST FOR FLAG RAISINGS FOR JUNETEENTH AND PRIDE MONTH BY JAMIE KNUDSEN

Mr. Knudsen would like to have a ceremony for each event if the Board approves them tonight.

MOTION 4: Ms. Beaulieu moved to approve flag raisings for Juneteenth and Pride Month. Mr. Olson seconded. The motion passed (5/0/0).

X. UPDATE ON TOWN MEETING PREPARATION AND VOTE TO CLOSE THE WARRANT

Mr. Domelowicz informed the Board a copy of the Warrant was sent to the Board today, and there were two changes that need to be made. Besides the changes, all articles approved at prior meetings are in the Warrant.

Anna Siedzik asked some clarifying questions regarding the Warrant articles. Mr. Domelowicz explained why some articles were there and gave background information on them. Mr. Farrell read each topic in the Warrant for those who may not have the packet in front of them.

MOTION 5: Mr. Knudsen moved to close the Warrant excluding article 2-6 and including the revolving fund. Ms. Beaulieu seconded. Mr. Knudsen moved to amend the motion to also remove article 3-2. Ms. Beaulieu seconded. The motion passed (5/0/0).

XI. REVIEW TOWN BANNER POLICY

Mr. Olson gave an overview of the Town's Banner policy and examples of policies from other municipalities. He asked Board members to review the samples he gathered and share their thoughts. He will then craft a policy and bring it back to the Select Board at a future meeting.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Olson would like an Executive Session or two regarding the Gordon Seminary on a future agenda.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 6: Mr. Myers moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Olson seconded. The motion passed (5/0/0).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Astrella, MPA, WCPC
Minutes Services, LLC

Respectfully submitted as approved at the July 17, 2023 meeting

Laurie Wilson Laurie Wilson, Assistant to the Town Manager